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White House 'no specific agenda' yet on gun violence

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House said yesterday it so far has "no specific agenda" to announce on preventing shooting massacres, as a clamor grew among Democrats and in the media for action on tighter gun controls.

President Barack Obama promised victims' families at a vigil Sunday for 26 people including schoolchildren killed in Connecticut on Friday that he would use the power of his office to try to end a rash of mass killings.

But the White House said it had yet to frame an approach, adding that Obama would en-

gage Americans in the "coming weeks" on the way forward, as America tries to process the horror and shock of the Newtown shootings.

"I don't have a series of proposals to present to you," White House spokesman Jay Carney said, when pressed by reporters to explain what the president had meant during his tender eulogy for the slain children.

"I don't have a specific agenda to announce to you today. I will simply point you to what the president said last night about moving forward in the coming weeks. I would look for him to do that."

Cas di Glas 2012 closes

Happy deejays leave their House of Glass at last!

Cas di Glas, the cozy prison of deejays Jen (Caliente), Suhaila (Power FM) and DJ 101 (Cool FM), who were locked up inside for the past five days, finally released its inhabitants as the fundraising frenzy came to a close on Sunday evening. Quite hungry, with great big pangs keeping them awake at night, the deejays were happy to have persevered, losing lots of weight in the process. Drinking only fruit- and vegetable juices, they had their ups and downs, but their spirit and comradeship kept them going. DJ 101 called his fellow-prisoners 'my sisters' after he came out of the trailer. Last Wednesday evening they stepped into the Cas di Glas at the Palm Beach Plaza Mall - five days, after having accomplished 24-7 broadcasting, later emotions were running high as they reunited with their children, family and friends. Well done and welcome back!



Ballière, expert coordinator Esmeralda Ophelia-Schotman and Wit Gele Kruis' Gino Goeloe. Then he asked the mothers of Peter and Gino to step forward to symbolize the elderly of the island. Tears and flowers followed plus a beautiful song by soprano Manuela van Geenhoven before Minister Visser started patting his pockets, searching for the key of Cas di Glas. As Jen, Su and DJ 101 stepped out, applause and shouts rang out; the song 'We are the champions' was played. It was a great moment.

Cas di Glas 2012 was a fundraising for Wit Gele Kruis Aruba (WGK), in particular for the elderly on the island. Filled with activities, a beach tennis tournament, parties, a fashion show with participation of the stores of the Palm Beach Plaza Mall and performances by a wide array of artists and groups, it was a greatly entertaining event, which many people enjoyed.

Minister of Sports Richard Visser got the honor to release Jen, Su and DJ 101. He did so after emcee Ruben Garcia entertained the crowd, interviewed the men behind the participating radio stations Coof FM, Power FM and Caliente, organizer of Cas di Glas Peter

Continued in page 2

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Cas di Glas 2012 closes

Continued from page 1



George McCrae, Freck Bartels, Levi Silvanie, Junior Tecla, Data-panik, Biggie Boy, Carolina Dijkhuizen, Hot Ones Band, Jasper Taconis, Two of Us, Close Call, Den 2, Manuela van Geenhoven, Efraim, Youth Extreme and many more singers and groups performed on the awesome stage in the evenings, while the best in beach tennis showed off the sport to perfection on the single court, laid out in front of Taste of Belgium Restaurant.

Photos show the moment that Minister of Sports Richard Visser releases the three heroic, happy deejays from their house of glass, or-



ganizer Peter Ballière thanking everyone who has made the fundraising for WGK into

a success and photos of the truly memorable final moments of Cas di Glas 2012.

Aruba Lotto is intent on making someone a millionaire this year!

ORANJESTAD -- According to marketing and promotion manager Patrick Fortin, Aruba Lotto wants to create a millionaire winner before this year ends. He reported, "...We have deliberated and finally decided that this ought to be the early million shots to be fired this year." Hence, if someone wins the Mini Mega jackpot this Tuesday, he will become a millionaire!

The jackpot prize was Afls.810.000 last Friday, but there was no happy winner of the first prize. And, in accordance with the high interest, the first prize of the jackpot for the Mini Mega has been increased to Afls.900.000 for tonight.

The decision was taken to add Afls.100.000 extra to the jackpot if someone wins the first prize, to bring the total prize to exactly **One Million Aruban florins!** However, should the prize remain in the pot, in other words, if there be no jackpot winner tonight there is a chance that the jackpot will automatically reach the one million Aruban florins for Friday.

Everyone is encouraged to purchase their ticket for only Afls.5,00 to be sure to be in the game for this huge prize. You are advised to buy your tickets early to avoid the long lines expected at the ticket

booths. It is very easy to play the Aruba Lotto. The Mini Mega is comprised of 4 numbers from 1 to 30, plus a Mega Ball with the number 1 to 15. You can either choose your own 5 numbers, or request a "Mini Mega loco" at the ticket booth. The "Mini Mega loco" is wild numbers pre-chosen by the computer.

Aruba's Lotto has 8 different games: Catochi, Big 4, Zodiac, Lotto of the Day, Lotto 5, Mini Wega and the Wega di Number Korsou. There is now also the Tic-Tac-Toe, a fun game to play.

Aruba Lotto is currently in her "12 days of Christmas" campaign with additional prizes for their players, which lasts up to December 24.

For more information, visit their website at www.lottoaruba.com or visit their face book page.

Aruba Lotto exists since 1982 and just recently changed their image for a brand new logo and slogan. Aruba Lotto has also recently donated an additional 1 million Aruban florins to the Subsidy Commission of Sports who in turn distributed this money to the different sport organizations across the island. The primary goal of the Aruba Lotto foundation is to organize lotteries, change lives and at the same time to invest in our local sports.

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Do Good Aruba makes a donation to the Clown Doctors



The partners of Do Good Aruba are dedicating three weeks in December to fund-raising for the local Clown Doctors. Besides presenting the not-for-profit foundation with a corporate donation, the partners have made a collection box available to the pub-

lic, where donations are accepted from all those who visit their location at the Village Marketplace.

The recently formed Do Good Aruba, headquartered in a warehouse at Eagle, re-purposes beautiful wine, liquor, beer, water, and soda bottles sourced from local businesses into elegant tumblers, drinking glasses and distinctive vases. The merchandise is then sold in various locations on the island including the evening at Village Marketplace on Palm Beach.

Wanting to do even more – Do Good Aruba designated December 20th as its "Clown Doctors" night! The company plans to involve all marketplace vendors in their fund raising efforts. The Clown

Doctors will also be assisting the drive by walking around with a collection box from 8pm to 10pm, that night.

Rosie Walisever, a Do Good Aruba partner reports the project has been very well received and both local and visitors eagerly purchase the re-purposed glassware, which is perfectly suitable for commercial and private use. Some of Aruba's hotels and restaurants already feature Do Good Aruba glasses and tumblers with more coming on board every day.

Pictured here Rosie and her biggest client, Josh Posner, who owns a small Do Good Aruba outlet in the neighboring Arawak Gardens.

The Clown Doctors Aruba convert tears into laughter as they visit ailing children in the local hospital ward. The organization was founded on November 21, 2000, by Peter Ballière, a famed local restaurateur, who set up the Aruban Clown Doctors with assistance from its Belgian sister organization Cliniclowns Belgium. The clowns also visit senior citizens in nursing homes and small



children in the local orphanage, and are sustained by donations only.

The public is invited to assist by visiting Do Good Aruba at the Village Market-

place, in order to make a donation or a purchase from Do Good Aruba. Red foam noses, the clowns' signature feature, will also be available for sale against a donation.

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25th Anniversary surprise for Kelly



Don and Kelly, from New Hampshire, came to Aruba for what they called "our vacation", which they have been doing every year at this time for the last twelve years. This one was different though. Their 2 children, Amanda and Alex did not join them this time.

As Don and Kelly took their morning beach walk, they were met up with Officiant

Diane Keijzer, who was waiting for them as a surprise 25th anniversary renewal of vows for Kelly, quietly arranged for by Don. She smiled a great big smile, shed a tear, and gave Don a big hug and kiss, and said "yes" once again.

The re-commitment ceremony was very memorable, and another surprise was the exchange of new rings that Don bought for this special

day. An Aruban friend, who just happened to be on the beach (of course, arranged by Don) took some photos for them during the ceremony and afterwards as they, hand in hand, walked the beach they love.

Congratulations, and many, many more years of love, health and happiness! See you next year...

Diane Keijzer



INGLOT Cosmetics now open on Aruba



INGLOT Company was established over 25 years ago by Wojtek Inglot. His principal objective was to produce high quality products at fair and reasonable prices, using only the best possible ingredients and raw materials from the most reputable suppliers.

INGLOT Cosmetics is now open on the beautiful island of Aruba, to cater to all the beautiful ladies and their specific needs.

The store is located in Emmastraat #3 (next to Hugo Boss) and is open from Monday to Saturday, from 9am till 6pm. On holidays the store will stay opening for late shopping. You are invited to come by for your one of a kind gifts and customer attention.



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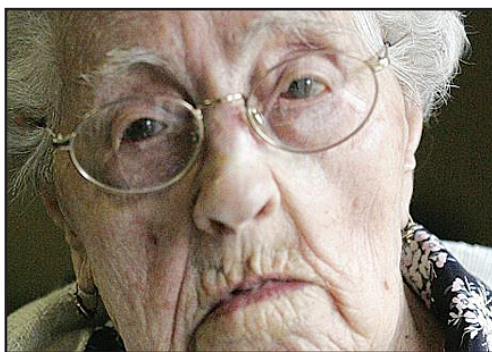
Death toll of explosion raises to 3

WILLEMSTAD -- Another person has died from injuries sustained in an explosion at a Curacao fireworks warehouse, raising the death toll to three, authorities said yesterday.

Police spokesman Reggie Huggins said the third victim died of burn wounds Sunday morning.

The fire work warehouse which exploded last Saturday afternoon was rejected in 2007 by the Fire Department. However, the government did not take action then based on the safety. The people who were in the warehouse during the explosion, were reportedly involved in cleaning up the old fireworks. By unknown cause the explosion took place, which was fatal for three employees. Of the injured, there was one transferred to Medellin, Colombia for third degree burns treatment. His condition is now stable. Another is still in the hospital. The other three were sent home after treatment.

World's oldest person dies at age 115



Dina Manfredini

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The world's oldest person -- an Iowa woman who scrubbed floors until she turned 90 -- died yesterday at age 115, less than two weeks after earning her venerable distinction.

Dina Manfredini, a native of Italy, died at the Bishop Drumm Retirement Center outside Des Moines, Iowa, said its director, Heather Rehmer. She declined to give details.

Manfredini was mainly a mother and homemaker but later in life took up working cleaning people's houses and kept at it until age 90, says the website of the Guinness Book of World Records. The widow lived independently up to the age of 110.

The Guinness people had declared her pinnacle

status only on December 5 of this year, a day after the death of an American lady named Besse Cooper, aged 116, in a nursing home nearly Atlanta, Georgia.

Manfredini's family attributed her longevity to hard work and doing everything in moderation, the website said.

The passing of Manfredini apparently leaves a Japanese man, Jiroemon Kimura, as the world's oldest person. He was born just 15 days after Manfredini.

Her birthday was April 4, 1897.



Jiroemon Kimura

Chavez's party, despite his cancer, dominates state polls

CARACAS (AFP) - President Hugo Chavez, despite an intensifying battle with cancer, has tightened his grip on Venezuela with his party crushing the opposition and winning most governorships in state races Sunday.

Chavez's top rival, Henrique Capriles, survived his own tough test, winning re-election as Miranda state governor. But Chavez's party gained in four other states, said electoral officials in this OPEC nation with the world's top proven oil reserves.

Capriles admitted the losses were a "tough moment" for Venezuela's opposition.

"Our (opposition candidates) have lost some ground. But they are no less leaders than they were yesterday," he said.

"We are going to reach the dream that we have. This is a tough moment, but there are opportunities in every tough moment."

In the country's 23 states, the socialist ruling party won 20 of the top state posts while the opposition held onto three including Miranda, the electoral council said. The opposition had held seven state



Henrique Capriles speaks during a news conference after being re-elected.

governorships before the vote.

Turnout was just under 54 percent nationwide, the top electoral body said. That is fairly low, according to analyst Luis Vicente Leon, who said the timing very close to Christmas likely had an impact, especially for the opposition whose voters tend to be from the middle and upper classes.

The elections were overshadowed by the health of Chavez, who was improving and already "giving instructions" from his bed in Havana where he is recovering from cancer surgery, a Venezuelan cabinet member said earlier.

Chavez, 58, is due to be sworn in for a third presidential term on January 10, but the country is now on tenterhooks to see if the outspoken,

formerly tireless leader will remain their president, become incapacitated, or worse.

He has named foreign minister and vice president Nicolas Maduro as both his temporary replacement and hand-picked successor.

Maduro on Sunday declared the vote "a resounding defeat" for the opposition, in a telephone interview on state television.

Chavez's "people here reached out with a huge act of love," he said.

Earlier, Science and Technology Minister Jorge Arreaza, who is in Cuba with Chavez, said the president was recovering well from his surgery.

"As of yesterday, El Comandante had already resumed communicating with us, giving instructions, governing in fact, giving instructions to be implemented in our country," Arreaza, husband of Chavez's eldest daughter, added in a phone call broadcast on state television.

"He continues to recover, positively, day after day, hour after hour," he said.



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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Newtown buries school massacre dead



A woman comforts a boy as mourners depart Honan Funeral Home after the funeral for 6-year-old Jack Pinto.

NEWTOWN (AFP) - Funerals began yesterday in the little Connecticut town of Newtown after the school massacre that took the lives of 20 small children and six staff, triggering new momentum for a change in America's gun culture.

The first burials, held under raw, wet skies, were of two six-year-old boys among those shot in Sandy Hook Elementary School. Today, the first of the girls, also aged six, was due to be laid to rest.

The family of one boy, Jack Pinto, said their goodbyes at a century-old building in the center of the town, the men wearing dark suits and ties. Some 20 children of different ages came to the funeral home, along with about two dozen adults.

All schools in Newtown were shut until today and the blood-soaked elementary school itself was to remain a closed crime scene indefinitely, authorities said.

"Healing is still going on," town police Lieutenant George Sinko said. "The plan is to try to resume normalcy for school classes tomorrow, except for those members of the Sandy Hook school."

In the nearby town of Ridgefield, reports of a suspi-

cious person prompted the brief lockdown and deployment of police yesterday at all schools, indicating the jitters in the United States in the wake of the killings.

For Newtown, a picturesque and quiet suburban community where the 20-year-old killer lived with his well-off mother, the start of funerals was hardly likely to settle the nightmare of what happened last Friday.

But the crime, in which the murderer carried a high-powered, military style rifle and two handguns, may have spurred change in the political landscape regarding rules on weapons ownership.

Late Sunday, President Barack Obama joined a prayer vigil in Newtown and pledged to work for an end to mass shootings, which have now become an almost regular event in the United States -- with four massacres since Obama took office alone.

"These tragedies must end," Obama said, not giving specifics, but appearing to commit himself to a push for reform in his second White House term, possibly by urging restoration of a federal ban on assault weapons like the one used in Newtown.

Clinton reviewing Benghazi probe findings

WASHINGTON (AFP) - A keenly-awaited inquiry into a deadly militant attack on a US mission in Libya has been completed and US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is reviewing it, a top official said yesterday.

The findings of the Accountability Review Board set up by Clinton just days after the September 11 attack on the US consulate in Benghazi could unleash a Christmas bombshell for the US administration.

Four Americans, including the ambassador Chris Stevens, died in the assault by dozens of heavily-armed militants, who overran the consulate before unleashing a hail of mortar fire on a nearby annex being used as a safe house.

Republicans have excoriated the administration for failing to provide proper security, and for allegedly trying to cover-up the attackers' ties to Al-Qaeda.

"The ARB has completed its work. Its report has gone to the secretary this morning," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said,

adding there was an unclassified part, and a separate classified section which would not be released to the public.

US lawmakers hoping for answers from the top US diplomat about the events in Benghazi will be frustrated, however, that Clinton was forced to cancel plans to testify to House and Senate committees on Thursday because of ill-health.

"The secretary had anticipated testifying," Nuland stressed, but added "she is still under the weather. She was diagnosed as having suffered a concussion after fainting and falling, and her doctors have urged her to stay home this week."

Clinton had sent a letter to the committee chairmen yesterday to say "thank you for your understanding, and that I wish I could have been there myself," Nuland said, adding she would work with them going forward "on these very important issues."

The inquiry's chairman, veteran diplomat Thomas Pickering, and Admiral Mike Mullen, will now brief US

lawmakers behind closed doors on Wednesday.

And deputy secretaries of state Bill Burns and Tom Nides will then appear on Thursday in Clinton's place at the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Clinton may now appear before US lawmakers in January, before she steps down after four years in office, Nuland said.

"She's making clear in her communication with the committee that she expects that they're going to have to have ongoing conversation in January, and she's available for that," Nuland told journalists.

Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who chairs the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said it was "unfortunate" Clinton would not testify as planned.

Lawmakers still have "tough questions about State Department threat assessments and decision-making on Benghazi. This requires a public appearance by the secretary of state herself," she said in an earlier statement.

Israel green-lights 1,500 settler homes in east Jerusalem

JERUSALEM (AFP) - Israel gave the green light yesterday for a plan denounced by Washington to build 1,500 settler homes in annexed east Jerusalem, prompting the Palestinians to warn they would seek a UN Security Council meeting on the issue.

Interior ministry spokeswoman Efrat Orbach said the ministry's planning committee had given developers the go

ahead but told applicants to trim their request to build 1,600 new housing units at Ramat Shlomo to 1,500 and re-submit it "for final approval".

The Palestinian leadership responded by saying it would seek a Security Council meeting on the Israeli plans to build the new settler homes.

The leadership was on the verge of "important and necessary measures against Israel's settlement building, including recourse to the UN Security Council, to prevent implementation of these decisions," president Mahmud Abbas's spokesman Nabil Abu Rudeina told AFP.

Top Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erakat urged the US administration to "vote for Palestinian resolutions that will be submitted to the Security Council against Israeli settlements."

The Israeli plan caused a

diplomatic rift with Washington when it was first announced in 2010 as US Vice President Joe Biden met top officials in Jerusalem to boost Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

It has lain dormant since August 2011 but two weeks ago the ministry announced that it had been revived.

Yesterday's announcement will only add to international discontent caused by a separate Israeli decision to plan 3,000 more settler homes in the West Bank and east Jerusalem after the Palestinians won upgraded status at the UN last month.

Some of that construction is to take place in a controversial corridor of land east of Jerusalem called E1, which critics say could effectively cut off the northern West Bank from the south, and ultimately threaten the territorial contiguity and viability of a future Palestinian state.

Depardieu may find becoming Belgian no easy role

PARIS (AFP) - Gerard Depardieu may find acquiring Belgian nationality a tough business with a senior official saying yesterday that the French tax exile would have to prove a real love for Belgium's culture.

The 63-year-old film star has threatened to give up his French passport over a tax row.

But Karine Lalieux, a member of the commission, took a tougher line.

"Gerard Depardieu has to convince us that he does not want to become Belgian only to avoid the French taxman," she said. "He must prove that he loves Belgian culture and wishes to promote it."

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International News

Pro-gun Democrat leader Reid open to gun-law debate

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US lawmakers this week debate how to "change laws and culture" in order to prevent gun violence like last week's school shooting, the Senate's pro-gun Democratic leader said Monday.

Majority Leader Harry Reid's comments were noteworthy given that he is the most senior pro-gun politician in the country to suggest he might be open to changes in licensing laws after the horrific crime in Newtown, Connecticut.

Reid did not specifically address whether the chamber would consider new legislation to ban certain assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, as has been proposed by prominent Democrat Dianne Feinstein.

But he left little doubt over how he sees Congress' responsibilities in the aftermath of Friday's shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School.

"Part of the healing process will require Congress to examine what can be done to prevent more tragedies like the ones in Newtown, Connecticut; Aurora, Colorado; Oak

Creek, Wisconsin; and Portland, Oregon," Reid told the Senate floor, referring to several mass shootings this year.

"In the coming days and weeks we'll engage in a meaningful conversation and thoughtful debate about how to change laws and culture that allow this violence to continue to grow," he said.

He added that lawmakers have "no greater responsibility" than keeping children safe, saying: "And every idea should be on the table as we discuss how best to do just that."

Reid, who has been given a "B" rating by powerful lobby group the National Rifle Association to celebrate his pro-gun rights voting record, led the Senate in a moment of silence.

He and Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell both paid emotional tribute to those killed, notably the heroic adults who died trying to protect their young charges.

US lawmakers will be back en masse in Washington on today, under pressure to address the simmering issue of America's gun laws.

Bus crash in Colombia kills 27



BOGOTA (AFP) - A bus swerved off a road in central Colombia and flipped over, killing 27 passengers and injuring 15, an official said. A total of 24 people died on the scene and three more later in hospital, said Alvaro Escobar, a spokesman for the prosecutor's office in Cundinamarca department. The bus was heading from Bogota to the city of Cali, some 500 kilometers (310 miles) to the southwest, highway police commander Francisco Patino said. The bus veered off the road and overturned, Colombian TV footage showed. The vehicle was part of a caravan of four that were traveling to Cali, returning people from a corporate convention in Bogota. People on some of the other buses said the driver of the one that crashed had complained about the brakes on the first leg of the journey but that the bus company failed to replace the vehicle. Earlier this month eight people died and 11 were injured when a bus flipped over in Ibague, 200 kilometers (120 miles) west of Bogota, apparently after speeding.

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Man arrested for Facebook threat to California schools

LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Police in Los Angeles have arrested a man for allegedly making shooting threats to "multiple elementary schools" in a post on Facebook, a spokeswoman and reports said Monday.

The suspect was arrested Sunday, after officers went to his home and found weapons there, the NBC4 television channel reported. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) was also involved, it said.

"Threats were made against multiple elementary schools," said Venus Hall, a spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD), declining to elaborate.

In a post on the Facebook social network, the man threatened to "conduct shootings" at the schools, the Los Angeles Times reported. Police sources would not specify how many or which schools were mentioned, the newspaper reported.

The alleged threats came as the United States reels from a massacre at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut on Friday.

British Queen to attend Cabinet in historic first

LONDON (AFP) - Queen Elizabeth II is to attend a British Cabinet meeting on Tuesday, Downing Street announced, the first such visit in more than a century.

Historically, monarchs used to chair Cabinet meetings but the last one to exercise their right to attend was queen Victoria, Queen Elizabeth's great-great grandmother, who died in 1901.

The 86-year-old sovereign is going to the prime minister's Downing Street residence to receive a diamond jubilee gift from the Cabinet, marking her 60 years on the throne, and will also sit in on their meeting as an observer.

Queen Elizabeth was to sit at the middle of the table, with Prime Minister David Cameron to her right and Foreign Secretary William Hague to her left.

The prime minister always sits at the middle of the Cabinet table, with his back to the fireplace. His leather-bound wooden chair is the only one with arms.

The green, boat-shaped table was introduced by Harold Macmillan, who served as prime minister from 1957 to 1963, to allow him to see all his ministers.

Queen Elizabeth has been to Downing Street on numerous



occasions during her reign, most recently in July for a diamond jubilee lunch hosted by Cameron and attended by former prime ministers Gordon Brown, Tony Blair and John Major.

She has had 12 British premiers, the first being Winston Churchill, during her 60-year reign.

However, she has never attended a Cabinet meeting, where secretaries of state discuss the big issues of the day.

Though Queen Elizabeth is Britain's head of state, her role in exercising power is largely formal and the monarchy has to remain strictly neutral in political affairs.

She gives a weekly audience to the prime minister at which she has a right and a duty to express her views on government matters. No-one else is present, no notes are taken and the content is never discussed.

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Health & Living

One million Brazilians join cheating dating service



SAO PAULO (AFP) - Want to cheat on your partner? Then the online dating service Ashley Madison is the perfect place for you.

Since it arrived in Brazil 15 months ago, the website has attracted one million lusty Brazilians, turning this South American country of 194 million people into one of the biggest markets for the Canadian company.

Created 10 years ago, Ashley Madison and its slogan: "Life is short. Have an affair" is now present in 24 countries, with eight million members in the United States and six million in Canada.

But Brazil has seen the firm's most explosive growth in terms of number of clients - 70 percent of whom are men - and in money spent to fi-

nance the temptations the site offers.

"Brazilians have a very strong propensity for pleasure, sex and fun," said Eduardo Borges, the company's representative in this body-conscious country famous for its exuberant samba dancing and carnival.

Know-how is precisely the basis for Ashley Madison's marketing appeal, including references to famous cases of infidelity such as those of former US president Bill Clinton and Prince Charles.

--'Lover guaranteed'--

"We started in Brazil in late August 2011. I expected 500,000 subscribers in a year, but we got more than 800,000. And we are going to close 2012 with more than one million, a much bigger growth

than what we anticipated," Borges added.

With 17 million subscribers worldwide, the website will gross \$120 million this year, but Borges would not say how much is generated in Brazil.

"Brazil is our second largest market in terms of income," he said, adding that before the end of the year, the company hopes to open an office in Sao Paulo, the first outside Canada.

"Brazil is the apple of our eye," he added.

There are many other leading dating sites in Brazil such as eHarmony or Second Love.

Ashley Madison was created with women in mind. They do not pay to subscribe or make contacts with men, who are the ones who must pay to send emails, chat messages, draw hearts or use other techniques of virtual seduction.

For a conversation between two members, one of the members must pay five credits to initiate the conversation. Any follow-up messages between the two members are free after the communication has been initiated.

Bare chest pictures, faces with piercing looks, adjectives such as "sensitive and affectionate, creative and adventurous," anything goes.

David Benoliel, the company's vice-president for Latin America, said acceptance in the region has been amazing "despite many social and religious taboos".

Company officials see infidelity as the perfect recipe to save marriage from boredom. "If there is something missing in your marriage but you do not want a divorce, here we have what you are looking for," Borges insisted.

Indian student gang-raped, thrown off bus in N. Delhi

NEW DELHI (AFP) - Indian police were searching New Delhi Monday for the men who gang-raped a 23-old-student and threw her off a bus in an attack that has sparked fresh concern for the safety of women in the city.

The woman accompanied by a male friend boarded a bus on Sunday night and was attacked by at least four men and gang-raped, police said.

Some media reports said the attackers also included staff of the bus.

The victim's companion was battered with iron rods before the men took turns and raped her, police officials said.

The couple were then thrown off the moving bus, seriously injuring the woman, they said.

The female victim was in in-

tensive care in a city hospital where her companion is also being treated police chief Chhaya Sharma told reporters.

The attack sparked new calls for greater security for women in New Delhi, which registered 568 rapes in 2011 compared to 218 in India's financial capital Mumbai the same year.

Delhi Chief Minister Sheila Dikshit promised "precautions" to prevent such attacks in the future but did not elaborate.

New Delhi's shiny new metro has reserved a carriage in every train for woman while several police stations in university and other areas have all-female staff to try and stem rising crime against women.

Rape cases in India more than doubled between 1990 and 2008, according to official data.

Drinking Alcohol Safely in this Festive Season



-- The following tips for safe alcohol consumption apply to any time of year, but may be particularly useful in the pre-Christmas period when people tend to drink alcohol more frequently and in larger quantities.

•Avoid refilling a half empty glass: It is much harder to keep track of how much is being consumed if a half empty glass is refilled, compared to when the drinker waits and refills their glass only when it is empty;

•Keep track of the serving size of drinks: Convert them to standard drinks.

•Check how much alcohol the beverage contains: Read the label, it must state the percentage of alcohol in the beverage. The more alcohol a drink contains, the lower the quantity that is equivalent to a standard drink.



Sci-Tech

New computing devices will allow touch, smell: IBM

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Future computing devices will push further into the senses by developing capacities to mimic the ability to see, smell, touch, taste and hear, IBM says in an annual forecast Monday.

The seventh annual "IBM 5 in 5," a list of innovations that have the potential to have an impact in the next five years, said computers and other devices will gain more capabilities to simulate the human senses.

IBM said computers may be able to use algorithms to determine the precise chemical structure of food and why people like certain tastes.

"Not only will it make healthy foods more palatable -- it will also surprise us with unusual pairings of foods actually designed to maximize our experience of taste and flavor," the computing giant said.

IBM predicted that in the next five years, tiny sensors embedded in computers or cell phones will detect if someone is coming down with a cold or other illness, by analyzing odors, biomarkers and thousands of molecules in someone's breath.

These tools will also help doctors diagnose and monitor the onset of ailments such as

liver and kidney disorders, asthma, diabetes and epilepsy, according to the IBM report.

For touch, IBM says new tactile, infrared and pressure sensitive technologies will allow people to simulate touch, such as the texture and weave of a fabric, over a mobile device.

"Utilizing the vibration capabilities of the phone, every object will have a unique set of vibration patterns that represents the touch experience," IBM said, pointing out the potential for retail and health care sectors.

IBM said computers are also developing improved capacities to detect and analyze sounds.

The IBM outlook says another key area for computer innovation will be the ability to analyze visual data, or "see."

"In the next five years, systems will not only be able to look at and recognize the contents of images and visual data, they will turn the pixels into meaning, beginning to make sense out of it similar to the way a human views and interprets a photograph."

These applications will be able to help analyze images such as X-rays or body scans, but also have an impact on industries from retail to agriculture.

Thousands flee Cyclone Evan in Fiji



SUVA (AFP) - Thousands of people fled to evacuation centres in Fiji Monday as authorities warned to "prepare for the worst" from a powerful category four cyclone bearing down on the Pacific nation. Power outages and flooding were reported on the main island of Viti Levu as Tropical Cyclone Evan approached, with all flights to and from Fiji cancelled as a precaution. At least four people were killed when the cyclone slammed into neighbouring Samoa late last week and the Fiji government said it was taking no chances, shifting tourists and residents from low-lying areas. Relief agencies were still assessing damage to remote islands in Samoa, where the New Zealand Rescue Coordination Centre is overseeing a search for three boats carrying eight men that failed to return from fishing trips Friday.

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18 dead in Ukraine cold, three babies born on icy roads



KIEV (AFP) - Severe winter weather has claimed 18 lives in Ukraine since the start of the month and three babies were born in traffic jams on snow- and ice-snarled roads, authorities said Monday.

Twelve people have died since Friday as temperatures plunged to minus 15 degrees Celsius (five Fahrenheit) in some parts, the health ministry's press office said.

Another 133 people sought medical treatment for hypothermia and frostbite, with 108 of them hospitalised.

Near the western city of Lviv on Monday, a woman gave birth to twins in an ambulance blocked on the road, the regional office of the ministry for emergency situations said.

The mother and her babies were eventually taken to in a nearby hospital.

In nearby Rivne on Sunday, another woman gave birth in her snowbound car, three kilometres (two miles) from the village of Kysorychi.

Cars were blocked for 18 kilometres (11 miles)

overnight Saturday on the main road between the capital Kiev and Lviv, officials said.

An opposition deputy claimed traffic was backed up for 40 kilometres.

Rescuers dug about 1,800 cars out in the country's western regions on Sunday, when more than 18,000 people joined snow clearing efforts.

Saudi Arabia begins aluminium production



RIYADH (AFP) - Saudi Arabia began aluminium production at its first smelter built through a joint venture between the Saudi Arabian Mining Company (Ma'aden) and US giant Alcoa, a statement said.

The Ma'aden Aluminium joint venture is 74.9 percent-owned by the Saudi group, with the rest held by Alcoa.

The smelter is part of a joint venture agreed in 2009 to construct a giant industrial complex costing \$10.8 billion.

In addition to the smelter which will have an initial annual capacity of 740,000 metric tonnes, the complex includes a bauxite mine with an initial capacity of four million metric tonnes per year, and an alumina refinery with an annual initial capacity of 1.8 million metric tonnes.

The complex also comprises a rolling mill with a capacity of 380,000 metric tonnes annually.

The smelter was built by Bechtel in 29 months.

COMICS

PICKLES



MOMMA



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I'LL TAKE MANHATTAN

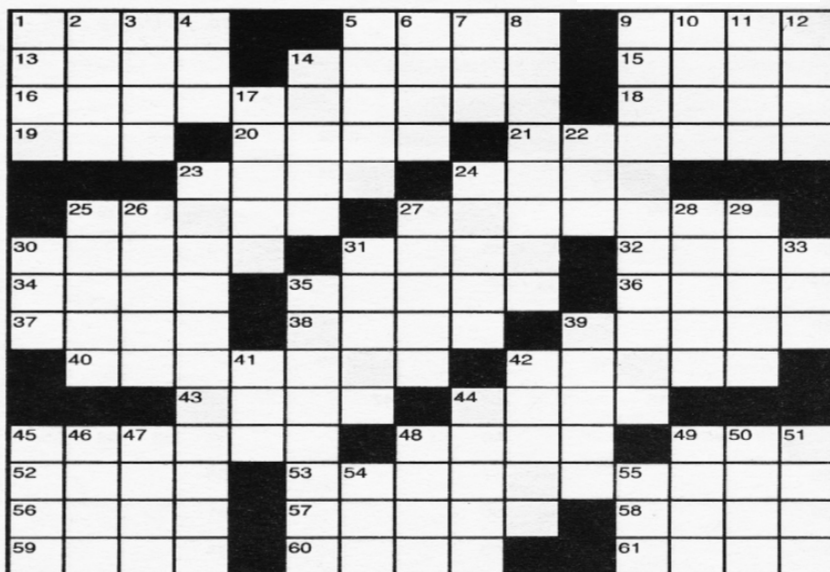
ACROSS

1. FDR's dog
5. Angler's need
9. Analysts' foci
13. Cheers for El Cordobes
14. Brawl
15. Soften with pity
16. Manhattan's — Square
18. — bargain
19. Mormons: abbr.
20. Deer moms
21. Magazine worker
23. Fracas
24. Fruit preservative
25. Type of bank or brother
27. Poet Moore
30. Not at ease
31. Serpentine squeezers
32. Differentiate
34. Standing
35. Families
36. Alder or elder
37. Beatrice d' —
38. Girl
39. Old hat
40. Gentlest
42. Loathes
43. Memorable periods
44. Fanon
45. Sleeve type
48. Dried
49. Pilot's heading: abbr.
52. Unrecorded, as history
53. Manhattan cathedral
56. Road distance

DOWN

57. Whitewash
58. Hi Flagston's wife
59. Leno's ancestor?
60. Ceremonial procedure
61. Ending for major or kitchen
1. Poultry
2. "When I was —"
3. Without: suffix
4. Cooper's wood
5. Produce
6. Bar mems.
7. 1992 Olympic silver medalist
8. Lacking color
9. Manhattan's — Building
10. Money, slangily
11. Bargain spread
12. Headliner
14. Hair fillet
17. Pinhead
22. Beaver's barrier
23. Center of New York City
24. Bean et al.
25. Impudence
26. Slow, to Muti
27. Seashore
28. Like Ericson
29. Hair
30. Poetic "before"
31. Couturier Bill
33. Golf ball perch
35. Comet or

- Ajax, e.g.
39. Rock, —, scissors
41. La la start
42. L'Amour precursor
44. — and desist
45. Frolic
46. La Scala solo
47. Black-tie affair
48. Unimportant quarrel
49. Any "Brave" character
50. Revue offering
51. — quam videri
54. Before cycle or angle
55. Seine sight



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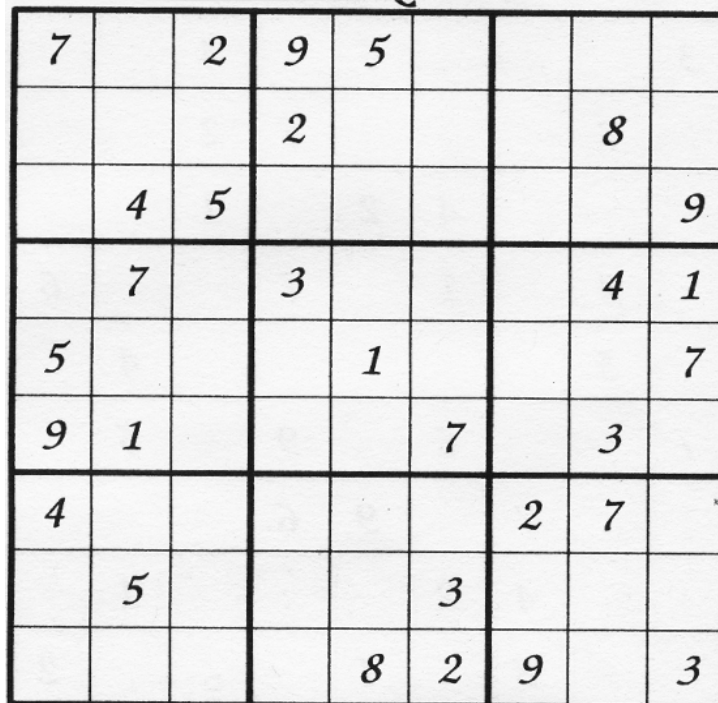
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Sudoku



SOLUTION

8	5	6	2	8	7	4	9	1
8	1	7	5	6	1	8	5	2
9	2	2	5	6	1	8	5	7
2	8	7	9	5	7	1	6	4
4	6	9	7	1	8	5	2	3
1	7	5	6	2	8	9	4	3
6	2	1	8	5	6	7	9	4
5	8	7	9	7	2	1	6	5
7	9	5	1	5	6	2	8	4

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

Finance

Top Republican makes new offer in US fiscal cliff talks: report



WASHINGTON (AFP) - House Speaker John Boehner has offered to take the US federal debt limit off the table for a year in a bid to revive talks to solve a fiscal crisis that could cause a recession, The Washington Post said Sunday.

Citing Democrats and Republicans familiar with the talks, The Post said the offer came on Friday.

If confirmed, it would mark a major concession in negotiations to strike an 11th-hour deal to avert painful tax increases and budget cuts. Boehner's office however would not confirm the deal.

"Our position has not changed," his spokesman Michael Steel told AFP. "Any debt limit increase would require cuts and reforms of a greater amount."

The Republican leader's offer also includes a proposal to raise tax rates for millionaires that would bring \$460 billion in revenue over the next decade -- about half of President Barack Obama's request - the daily said.

It cited a Democrat familiar with the talks as saying the White House has rejected Boehner's proposal because it would not raise enough funds to sufficiently decrease record budget deficits, and because it

would not extend emergency unemployment benefits into the new year.

Boehner's plan would produce about \$2 trillion in savings over the next decade, split evenly between new taxes and spending cuts, a Republican familiar with the discussions told The Post.

About \$460 billion would be secured in tax revenue by letting George W. Bush-era tax cuts expire on income exceeding \$1 million a year. But the cuts would be extended for all other tax brackets under the plan.

President Barack Obama warned earlier this month that he would reject any deal to end the so-called fiscal cliff showdown that let Republicans wield new leverage next year over lifting the cap on government borrowing.

The Treasury Department says the United States will hit its statutory borrowing limit near the end of the year, but that it can take emergency measures to push off the moment of crisis for a few months.

The country's current debt is around \$16.2 trillion, and continued borrowing to finance the budget shortfall would send the government past the fixed \$16.39 trillion level.

Obama insists that he will not allow a repeat of the crisis last year, when the United States came perilously close to defaulting on its debts, as Republicans sought deep spending cuts in return for more government borrowing.

Every time the US government comes up against its spending limit, Congress must vote to raise it so Washington can service its debt, amid fears that a US default could adversely affect both the domestic and the global economy.

Dutch finance minister favourite to replace Juncker: sources

BRUSSEL (AFP) - Dutch Finance Minister Jeroen Dijsselbloem is favourite to succeed Luxembourg's Jean-Claude Juncker as head of the eurozone finance ministers group but nothing is certain yet, diplomatic sources said Monday.

German TV station ARD earlier Monday said EU leaders had agreed on the appointment at a summit last week but diplomats said it was not set in stone.

German government spokesman Steffan Seibert also said no decision had been taken and would come only "when it was necessary."

Earlier this month, Juncker insisted he would step down from his post as planned by the end of the year and would not reconsider.

As Luxembourg prime minister, he is Europe's longest-serving national leader and has held the post of Eurogroup head since 2005.

Due officially to stand down on July 17 this year, Juncker was persuaded to continue due to the absence of a candidate acceptable to both France and Germany, the two biggest eurozone countries.

Finnish Prime Minister Jyrki Katainen said last week on the sidelines of the EU summit that he thought Dijsselbloem would be a good candidate but added that who got the job "really depends on who suits both France and Germany."

Another diplomatic source said Berlin favoured Dijsselbloem given that Germany and the Netherlands share the view that sticking strictly to the eurozone's tough rules is the best way to defend the single currency.

France's Pierre Moscovici in turn would seem an unlikely choice after Paris voiced opposition to his German counterpart, Wolfgang Schäuble.

The Netherlands has declined all comment on the issue but Dijsselbloem is said to have made a good impression since becoming finance minister in early November.

Daily Exchange Rates				
Current as of:	Currency	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
12/17/2012	Code			
	U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78 1.80
	Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00 100.20
	Canada	CAD	1.77	1.79 1.82
	Britain	GBP	2.80	2.85 2.93
	Switzerland	CHF	191.71	192.43 195.37
	Netherlands	EUR	230.59	232.69 236.74
	Sweden	SEK	25.91	26.63 27.31
	Denmark	DKK	30.23	30.95 31.97
	Norway	NOK	30.67	31.39 32.36
	Japan	JPY	214.88	216.84 214.46
(per 10,000)				
All rates for amounts up to AWG 100,00 per item.				



STRALENDORF (AFP) : A steel pole, part of the new 380 kilovolt current line between Schwerin and Hamburg is pictured in Stralendorf, northern Germany, on December 17, 2012. The provider 50Hertz will officially inaugurate the 88-km-long and 95 million Euro worth project in the presence of the chancellor today.



Compuware®

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NEW YORK (AFP) - An investor group Monday offered \$2.3 billion in a takeover bid for business software firm Compuware, saying it has quality assets but has underperformed. Elliott Management Corp, which holds an eight percent stake in Compuware, said it was offering \$11 per share in cash for the remaining stock. It said this amounted to a 25 percent premium to the price ahead of the company's recent regulatory filing. The news comes days after Compuware announced plans for a public offering of its Covisint unit, a platform which provides secure cloud computing for major companies, including in the auto sector. Compuware rallied some 12.7 percent to \$10.74 on the news. Compuware, which was formed in 1973, describes itself as a supplier of software products and services designed to increase productivity, including for mainframe computers.

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YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer



Wishing Liza Helder (23) our Miss Aruba, Success in Miss Universe 2012 Pageant



In her own words: *"I am determined to not stop until I have achieved my purposes in life, which are to serve others, help people, and give them the love and spirit that God has blessed me with."* - Miss Universe 2012 is the 61st Miss Universe pageant, and will be held on December 19, 2012 in PH Live at the Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, United States. Miss Leila Lopes from Angola will crown her successor at the end of this event. 89 countries and territories participate in this year's pageant and it will be broadcasted live in participant countries and territories by NBC, Telemundo & the international broadcasters. The final will be hosted by Andy Cohen and Giuliana Rancic; Train will be playing on stage.

'Hobbit' hobbles competition with massive \$84 mn take



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - "The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey," a prequel to the blockbuster "Lord of the Rings" series, earned a massive \$84.8 million -- one of the biggest debuts of the year, industry trackers said Sunday.

Internationally, the film earned \$138.2 million, for a worldwide estimated total of \$223 million, including a record-breaking \$15.1 million from IMAX theaters worldwide, according to New Line Cinema, which said it was the biggest opening for any "Lord of the Rings" film.

Box office watchers said it was the biggest December

opening in motion picture history.

The film stars Martin Freeman of British TV's "Sherlock" fame and Ian McKellen, reprising his role as Gandalf the Grey, and was directed by Peter Jackson based on the classic books by J.R.R. Tolkien.

In second place was "Rise of the Guardians," a Dreamworks holiday confection featuring Jack Frost, the Tooth Fairy, the Sandman and a tattooed Russian Santa Claus, among other unlikely characters. Industry tracker Exhibitor Relations said it earned \$7.4 million.

Third place went to "Lincoln" -- starring Daniel Day-Lewis as the 16th US president, which earned \$7.2 million. The film got a bump after earning seven Golden Globe nominations last week, the most of any film.

"Skyfall," last week's top film, and the 23rd episode of the spy thriller series, was fourth with \$7 million.

The fifth place spot was claimed by "Life of Pi," a 3D fantasy by Oscar-winning director Ang Lee based on a Booker Prize-winning novel about an Indian boy adrift on a lifeboat with a Bengal tiger in the Pacific. It earned \$5.4 million.

Vampire saga "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn" was sixth with \$5.2 million.

"Wreck-It Ralph," the animated Disney film about a videogame villain aspiring to be a hero, kept the seventh spot, earning \$3.27 million.

In eighth place was "Playing for Keeps" -- a romantic comedy starring Scottish heartthrob Gerard Butler, Jessica Biel, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Uma Thurman, which took in \$3.2 million.

Steak on a Stone- Le Petit Café's specialty



In a time when dining choices and critiques are based on value for your dollar, an old favorite, Le Petit Café, still offers one of the best values not only in price, but quality, quantity and ambiance.

Le Petit Café in Palm Beach offers charming surroundings reminiscent of a European outdoor café. Surrounded by Old World gaslights and an abundance of flora, it provides a delightful and romantic setting. In Oranjestad, diners can enjoy a breathtaking view of the harbor; particularly as the sun dips over the horizon and the lights of town set the waters aglow. Taking advantage of their Early Bird Special not only offers a great price for a delicious meal, but put you in the right place at the right time to enjoy Aruba's most spectacular daily performance; our stunning sunsets.

The Early Bird special offers a choice of a full sized chicken breast, a hefty portion of filet mignon or fresh grouper fillet accompanied by a well-stuffed baked potato, rice or french fries. There is a choice of soup or salad as a starter, and ice cream for dessert, all for a modest \$24.95; an unbeatable price for a great meal on Aruba!

Cooking your main course on the stone is a supremely healthy method of preparation, seasoned to perfection

and using no fats or oils. Fish in particular is excellent; extremely moist and tasty. A thick cut of filet mignon usually requires cutting into smaller sections to cook fully, especially if your preference is medium-well to well done.

Le Petit Café is particularly well known for its "Land and Sea" specialty, filet mignon and lobster tail; a gourmet treat when served in their signature fashion. The restaurant also offers a diverse menu of pastas and tempting gourmet appetizers such as seafood crepes, crispy calamari, and escargot. For family members in the mood for something different there are several dishes to choose from, such as chicken parmesan, so a large family with different ideas of what they want for dinner can easily be accommodated.

We all know that breakfast is the most important meal of the day, and Le Petit Café has also long been famous for the best value for breakfast on Aruba. They still offer a full breakfast buffet for \$9.95, another unbeatable value!

Le Petit Café is also located in the Paradise Beach Villas, so whether you are staying in Oranjestad, Palm Beach or Eagle Beach, a La Petit Café restaurant can be found only a short stroll away from you resort, a perfect way to begin or end your day!

Bon Dia and Welcome to Aruba!

Whether you're a first time visitor to the island, or you vacation with us every year we invite you to enjoy one of the most memorable vacation destinations of your life. We know, we're Divi Resorts and Aruba has been our home for over 40 years.

Divi Resorts has 5 resorts in Aruba, in addition to The Links at Divi Aruba golf course, and the Alhambra Casino. For years we've offered high quality all inclusive and timeshare vacations; and over 40,000 members actively participate in the Divi Vacation Ownership Program.

Many of our guests have found that one vacation to Aruba per year is simply not enough! Our solution: The Residences at Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

The Residences are luxury full ownership condominiums nestled within the lush greens of The Links at Divi Aruba golf course.

Make Aruba your second home! Condominiums from the \$300s.

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For more information about The Residences, visit our sales office located in the golf clubhouse at the Divi Village Golf & Beach Resort.

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- Reduced pricing on all inclusive option at Divi and Tamarijn Aruba All Inclusives.



5 Burgers Aruba: Now your best breakfast bargain!



A favorite stop for a great burger for lunch or dinner has just expanded their hours and menu to offer some of the best breakfast bargains to be found in Palm Beach. Owners Aaron and Rosie Walisever are living their dream: a home on paradise while welcoming all and sundry to their proud undertaking, 5 Burgers Aruba. The couple's fanatical dedication to giving their customers what they really want has resulted in a unique menu from an inter-

nationally known franchise with a "5", which now includes breakfast.

"You never get a second chance to make a first impression," believes Aaron. Upon entering 5 Burgers Aruba in The Village Mall in Palm Beach, one is struck by utterly spotless surroundings and a smiling, friendly, attentive service crew. Of course, the main item on the menu is burgers-the way they were meant to be, thick and juicy,

made fresh daily and 100% pure beef, the kind that made the hamburger a traditional American treat.

However, beginning at 7 a.m., patrons can now order 2 eggs any style, (omelets with 3 fillings are \$7.99) toast and coffee with unlimited refills for the special introductory price of only \$4.49, (\$5.48 with bacon) or All-you-can-eat pancakes, for \$6.99, again, with free refills on fresh coffee. Breakfast is served until 11 a.m. Famous for their fries made from fresh potatoes, Aaron has been working for months on devising the most irresistible home fries recipe, chunky and tender with skins still on; after much testing and tasting, he got the thumbs up from his harshest critic, Rosie; so this is another treat you have to try.

A glance at their burger menu will certainly tempt you to return for lunch or dinner, to sample their famous specialty items such as the Gouda, Farmer's or Man Burger (al-



most 12 ounces of choice beef), and a Western Burger with Aarons' secret-recipe crispy onion rings. All of these can be personalized with an incredible array of toppings, (mushrooms, jala-peño peppers, bacon, cheese, lettuce, tomato...whatever, the list goes on) at absolutely no extra cost.

5 Burger portions are ENORMOUS! Aaron suggests that even their small serving of fries is enough to be shared by

two. He was very amused to watch a famous French chef demonstrating the best way to make fried potatoes on a gourmet cooking show and could only comment "He stole my recipe!"

Try them the English way-with vinegar, and you'll wonder how you ever ate fries without it. This same 5-star chef also swears by Gouda as the best topping for the ideal gourmet cheeseburger.

5 Burgers is now open early until 10-ish at night; delivery is available to both the high-rise and low-rise hotel and beach district at now extra cost for orders over \$50. Enjoy a great lunch without ever leaving the beach by calling 586-3904. However, we suggest you stop by and enjoy their authentic, heartfelt hospitality; it is not unusual for either owner to sit and chat, sharing their knowledge of the island while making sure patrons are happy with their meal.



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SPORTS

Millonarios Champions



BOGOTA (AFP): Colombian Millonarios players celebrate with the trophy after winning the Colombian League final football match against Deportivo Independiente Medellin (ending their 24-year wait for a 14th league title) beating Independiente Medellin on penalties) at El Campin stadium in Bogota on December 16, 2012.

NBA: Calderon sparks Raptors over Rockets



TORONTO (AFP) - Spanish guard Jose Calderon scored 18 points, passed off 14 assists and grabbed 10 rebounds to power the struggling Toronto Raptors over the visiting Houston Rockets 103-96 in an NBA game Sunday.

The Canadian club improved to 6-19 with its second triumph in a row after having lost six games in a row while the Rockets lost for the fourth time in their past six starts, falling to 11-12.

Reserve Alan Anderson led

Toronto with 24 points while DeMar DeRozan scored 19 points and added seven rebounds for the Raptors.

James Harden scored a game-high 28 points for Houston while Marcus Morris added 19 points and Chandler Parson scored 12 points. Omer Asik grabbed a game-high 13 rebounds for the Rockets.

Asian-American star Jeremy Lin scored seven points on 3-of-9 shooting with one rebound and two assists for the Rockets on the eve of his return to Madison Square Garden to face the New York Knicks on Monday night.

Lin emerged from the Knicks' bench last February to become a sensation in New York, sparking the club to a win streak despite having stars Carmelo Anthony and Amare Stoudemire injured.

The Knicks chose not to match a free agent offer to Lin from the Rockets in the off-season and Lin, whose parents are from Taiwan and who also has a grandmother from China, departed for Houston.

Anzoategui claim first title



CARACAS : After just over 10 years of existence, Deportivo Anzoategui secured their very first league title. With Uruguayan coach Daniel Farias at the helm, Los Aurirrojos clinched the title on the penultimate match-day, edging out the mighty Caracas FC by a single point. All in all it was a historic season for Anzoategui, who also became the first team to win both the Copa de Venezuela and the championship since the introduction of short-format tournaments. (file photo)

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COA organized first Women's Martial Arts event!

--The very first activity of Martial Arts for Women just recently took place at the Centro Deportivo Frans Figaroa organized by the Women's Commission and Sports of the Aruba Olympic Committee (COA).

The "Comision Hende Muher y Deporte" of COA has introduced a relatively new concept for Aruba: a one day workshop for various Martial Arts especially for women. Despite the poor attendance by the community, the Feminine Day of Martial Arts left a positive impression on the organizers. In 6 different areas at the Centro Deportivo Frans Figaroa various schools of Martial Arts demonstrated that



will become interested and get involved in the Martial Arts and take advantage of the expertise that exists on the island.

The Comision Hende Muher y Deporte expressed gratitude to the clubs that participated in the program and they hope that they will again cooperate in fu-

ture events. During 2013 the Comision Hende Muher y Deporte will be organizing various events for women on different sports areas. They will continue to support and stimulate women to get involved in sports.



they can work together to achieve a common goal. Judo groups, Ryobukai Karate Do, Tang Soo Do, Iaijutsu, Aikido and Kendo offered classes to interested women, to small children and to older women with grandchildren.

The instructors of the various Martial Arts demonstrated their experience and profound understanding of their art. They introduced their discipline in a pleasant and interactive manner through 45 minute tasks to interested women.

Most remarkable during the entire program was the open minds that each had for learning from each other and to share with each other their martial arts experiences. It was obvious that Aruba has many very strong women, both as athletes as well as instruc-

tors and as leaders.

The organizers hope that this initiative will receive even more support in the future and that more women – and men,

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Packers, 49ers, Ravens clinch playoff berths

CHICAGO (AFP) - Green Bay, San Francisco and Baltimore secured playoff berths and the Dallas Cowboys boosted their post-season chances with a victory over Pittsburgh on "Showdown Sunday" in the National Football League.

Six matchups of NFL clubs with winning records prompted extra attention to the third-to-last week of the season. Never before had so many games between teams with winning records been staged on the same day so late in a campaign.

Atlanta and Houston, each 12-2, kept their edge in the chase for home-field playoff advantage, while Green Bay downed Chicago 21-13 to clinch the NFC North division title and San Francisco beat New England 41-34 to seal a playoff spot.

Baltimore also took a playoff spot when host Dallas beat Pittsburgh 27-24 in overtime, after Brandon Carr intercepted a pass from Ben Roethlisberger to set up Dan Bailey's game-winning 21-yard field goal.

Dallas defensive tackle Josh Brent, charged with drink-driving manslaughter in the car crash that killed teammate Jerry Brown, was on the sidelines for the Cowboys, although not in uniform. He is free on bond but suspended by the team.

All NFL contests observed a pre-game moment of silence



Quarterback Colin Kaepernick #7 of the San Francisco 49ers gets sacked by defensive end Rob Ninkovich #50 and defensive end Justin Francis #94 of the Patriots

in tribute to the 20 children and six adults who were killed Friday by a gunman at a school in Newtown, Connecticut.

The Giants suffered their fourth loss in six games when host Atlanta blanked New York 34-0. Matt Ryan threw three touchdown passes, two to Julio Jones, and the Falcons' defense imposed the first shutout on the Giants since 1996.

New York fell to 8-6 with the loss, allowing Dallas and Washington to match the Giants atop the NFC East division with two weeks remaining in the season.

Kirk Cousins, making his first NFL start as a fill-in for

injured fellow rookie Robert Griffin III, threw for 329 yards and two touchdowns to spark Washington to a fifth consecutive victory with a 38-21 triumph at Cleveland.

The Redskins are on their longest win streak since 2005.

NFC West leader San Francisco squandered a 31-3 lead but held off the host Patriots. Colin Kaepernick completed 14-of-25 passes for 216 yards and four touchdowns, the most touchdown tosses by a 49er in one game since 2003.

Green Bay's Aaron Rodgers completed 23-of-26 passes for 291 yards and three touchdowns, all to James Jones, and

the visiting Packers downed their arch rivals to seal a playoff trip.

The Packers, 10-4, have lost only once in their past nine games while the Bears fell to 8-6 with their third loss in a row and fifth in six games.

Matt Schaub completed 23-of-31 passes for 261 yards and a touchdown and Arian Foster ran 27 times for 165 yards to power host Houston over Indianapolis 29-17, clinching the AFC South title for the 12-2 Texans.

The Colts fell to 9-5 but remain in position for a wild-card playoff spot.

Peyton Manning completed

17-of-28 passes for 204 yards and a touchdown to spark the Denver Broncos to their ninth victory in a row, a 34-17 romp at Baltimore.

The AFC West champion Broncos, 11-3, have not won so many consecutive games since taking 13 in a row in 1998 on the way to a Super Bowl title.

It was the third loss in a row for the Ravens, who fell to 9-5 and lead the AFC North by only one game.

In Buffalo's fifth annual regular-season game at Toronto, Seattle quarterback Russell Wilson ran for three touchdowns in the Seahawks' 50-17 rout of the Bills.

The Seahawks became only the third team in NFL history to score 50 points in consecutive games and at 9-5 are the team to beat for an NFC wild-card berth.

Adrian Peterson ran 24 times for 212 yards and a touchdown to lead Minnesota over host St. Louis 36-22 and into the playoff hunt at 8-6.

Peterson's 1,812 rushing yards this year are 293 shy of Eric Dickerson's one-season NFL record with two games to play.

Arizona snapped a nine-game losing streak with a 38-10 home rout of Detroit, while Carolina ripped host San Diego 31-7, Oakland blanked visiting Kansas City 15-0, Miami dumped Jacksonville 24-3, and New Orleans blanked Tampa Bay 41-0.